

Dragons display artillery abilities

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - In the current combat environment, artillery cannons are often used as fixed pieces, conducting fire support missions from inside a stationary fire base.

For units armed with the versatile M109A6 “Paladin” howitzer, the ability to shoot, move, and communicate on the battlefield is a valuable

asset.

Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, traded the confines of their firebase for the streets of Taji, Nov. 17.

The tracks of the Paladins roared down the road as local residents stopped and stared, seeing these mammoth-sized vehicles has become rare due

to improvements to security in the area.

“It’s good that we only have to exercise an emergency fire mission,” said Colquitt, Ga. native, 1st Sgt. Jamie Crankfield. “It’s a testament to the hard work of both U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces and the strides we’ve made in recent years.”

“Generally in Iraq, batteries of artillery are limited to

the [Forward Operating Base] or re-designated as maneuver elements,” added Crankfield. “Conducting [an on-the-move] fire mission in a combat environment maintains the core competencies expected of us as artillerymen.”

Amidst the stares and curiosity of the residents of Taji, the cannoners still had a mission to execute.

“Fire mission!” echoed from the troopers in the Paladins as the onboard computers and radios relayed coordinates to the Soldiers in the gun.

Within a matter of seconds the giant cannons stopped on the road and located their target to provide the deadly and precise fires needed to support combat operations in Multi-National Division—Baghdad.

Smoke and dust filled the air with every flash from the tubes of the cannons. The deafening sound of artillery rang in the distance. Within minutes the Soldiers fired a total of thirty three rounds displaying the quick and awesome force of not only the M109A6, but of the proficient artillerymen on Camp Taji.

“On the battlefield every second matters,” said Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, the commander of the 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

“You can bet when Soldiers in MND-B need [artillery support], the Dragons will deliver.”



Photo by Capt. Alex Aquino, 1BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

Smoke flashes from the tube as an M109A6 “Paladin” howitzer assigned to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fires a high-explosive projectile during an emergency fire mission exercise in Taji, Nov. 17

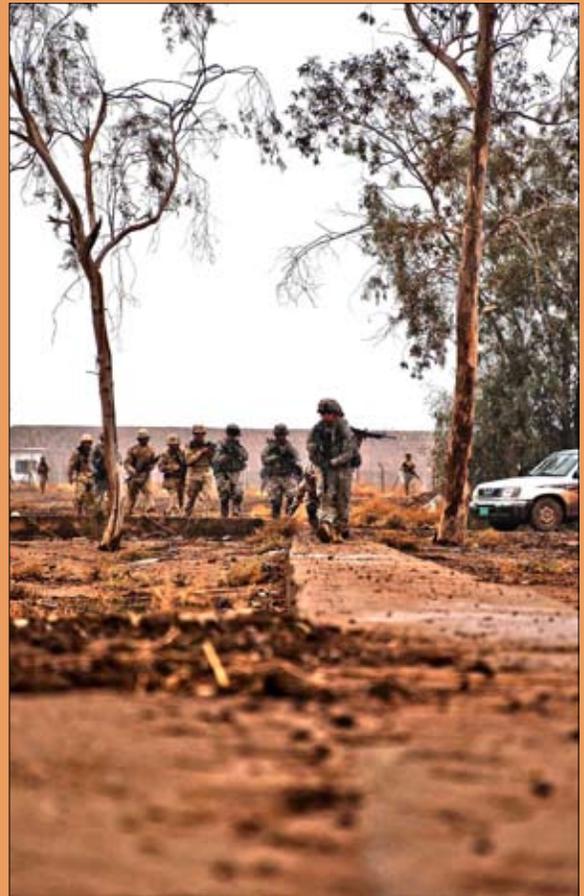
1st ACB, IA conduct cordon, search training

Photos by Sgt. Travis Zielinski
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq—During a joint training exercise, Spc. Brandon McClary (above), from Lake Ozark, Mo., a rifleman in 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and a 34th Iraqi Army Brigade Soldier (right), pull security on the perimeter of the objective, here, Nov. 19. U.S. Soldiers are helping IA build on tactical movement and searching procedures.

In a single-file formation, Soldiers (right) from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, alongside Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 34th IA Brigade, move tactically through a training area to conduct cordon and search exercises at Camp Taji, Nov. 19.



After conducting a cordon and search training exercise, Soldiers from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, along with 34th Iraqi Army Brigade Soldiers, position themselves to be picked up by a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter, here, Nov. 19.

Engineers improve guard tower safety

By Spc. Brian Johnson
16th Eng. Bde UPAR

BAGHDAD — At Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam, guard duty can be a dangerous assignment for Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division.

On Nov. 14, thanks to Soldiers from the 1434th Engineer

Company, the guard towers at JSS NWS, on western edge of Baghdad, are getting a much needed safety upgrade.

Engineers installed safety platforms at different levels for the long climb to the top of the guard towers. Previously, Soldiers climbed to the top of

the tower using ladders pieced together in six foot sections. The gaps in the steps of the ladders could sometimes reach 36 inches. In the daytime, this is dangerous enough. In the dark, it can spell disaster.

“Right now, if a Soldier climbs into any of the guard towers that doesn’t have the safety platforms, the potential for them to get injured is very real,” said Sgt. Shane Brown of Harrison, Mich.

“If a Soldier missteps climbing up or down the long ladder in the tower, they could fall and potentially get seriously injured. If they have all of their equipment on, the risk for severe injury increases that much more”.

To change this, Brown’s team has been hard at work constructing staggered ladder sections and platforms to increase soldier safety as they enter and exit the tower.

“Now, with the platforms in the tower, the Soldiers on

guard duty will be able to enter the tower, climb to their guard post safely and quickly and minimize the risk of any injury that could occur,” said Brown.

Pvt. 1st Class Cody Grigg, of Cadillac, Mich., one of the Soldiers of the 1434th working on the project, is grateful that no injuries had occurred prior to the new safety platforms being installed.

“As we pull the ladders out of the towers, some of them have just fallen apart. Other ladders have bent easily or had tremendous gaps between some of the rungs,” said Grigg.

According to Brown, the project is moving along very quickly.

“We have been able to adapt well and assemble the platforms almost as fast as we can cut the wood for them,” said Brown.

The construction of the safety platforms is expected to be complete within the next two weeks.



Photo by Spc. Brian Johnson

Pvt. 1st Class Corey Brown (left), and Pvt. 1st Class Jason Pumford, both of the 1434th Engineer Company, watch as the metal ladder that they are removing from the guard tower breaks apart at Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam.

Native American History Month

By Sgt. Joshua Risner
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – The contributions of Native Americans to American history, as well as the military, are quintessentially, well, American.

November marks Native American History Month and is intended to celebrate and commemorate the rich culture of the various Indian nations, said Sgt. 1st Class Tamatha Denton, from New York.

“The theme for this year is ‘Understanding American Indian Heritage Now and Then,’” she said. “We’re touching on military service all the way back from the Revolutionary War to the

Global War on Terrorism.”

This year observance for Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldiers, here, will have storytellers relating the history of Native American military service as well as traditional foods. Stories will include the famous code talkers of World War II, whose secret code, transmitted in the Navajo language, confounded the Japanese and was never decoded. Also touched upon will be more modern heroes such as Spc. Lori Piestewa, who was the first Native American woman to die in combat when her convoy came under attack outside Nasiriyah during the

opening month of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The participation of Native Americans in the U.S. military is long and storied, with 25 Medal of Honor winners, Denton explained.

“Their involvement in U.S. military service is higher per capita than any other ethnic group in the United States,” she said. “That speaks volumes.”

The first official observance of Native American history month was November 1990, when it was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush.

“November was chosen for obvious reasons: the

first Thanksgiving,” she explained.

“Also that’s the end of the harvest - traditionally Native Americans celebrate the end of the harvest and give thanks.”

During the month of November, let us remember and celebrate the contributions of Native Americans to our nation’s proud history and honor those who served in our armed forces.

For those wishing to participate and celebrate Native American History Month, an observance will be held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, on Camp Liberty, Nov. 27.

On This Day In History

November 21, 1970

Ford Mustang Boss 351 debuts

On this day, the rarest of Ford Mustangs--the Boss 351--debuted at the Detroit Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan. Ford first introduced the Mustang marque in 1964 and the car was an instant success, appearing on the covers of both Time and Newsweek.

The car, known as a "pony car" for its small size, had the appearance of a sports car. However, the Mustang was far more reasonably prized than the average sports car, and it possessed a rare popular appeal that made it one of the greatest automotive success stories of the 1960s. By 1970, the Ford Mustang had grown considerably in size, and the Boss 351 could better be described as a "muscle car" than a "pony car."

The car featured a powerful 8-cylinder engine built on Ford's new "Cleveland" block, and was factory rated at 300bhp. The Boss 351 was also unquestionably the rarest Mustang ever released--it was manufactured for just a single production year, 1971, and only 1,806 units were made--compared with the 500,000 Mustangs manufactured and sold by Ford in 1965 alone.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester, 1BCT, 1st Cav. Div

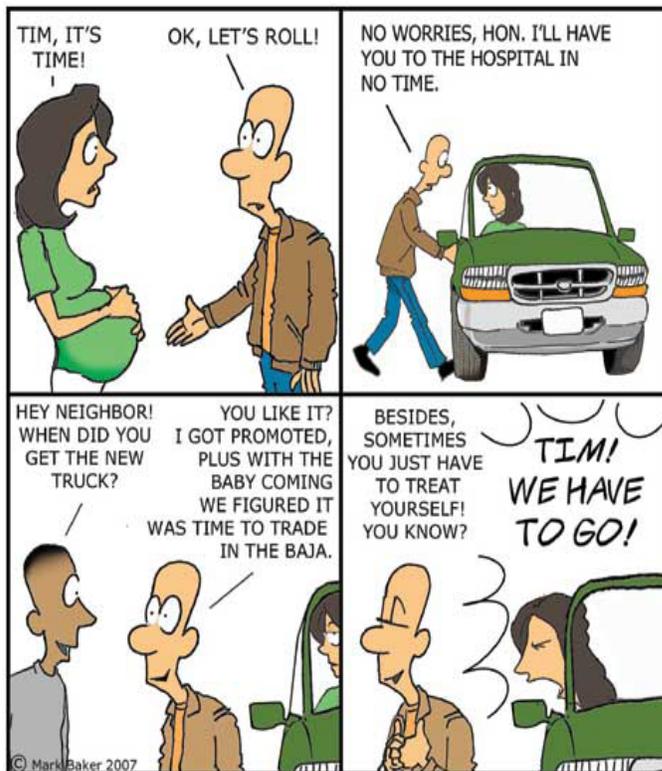
BAGHDAD – Maxwell, Ind. Native, Pvt. Christopher Land, an infantryman 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, searches a pile of rubble for any hidden caches in Tarmiyah.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris shot the sheriff, but he round house kicked the deputy.



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News Bulletin

Effective Tuesday 17NOV09, the DSTB aid station will be changing hours from 0700-1800 hrs. The only exception is the days that we will be giving flu shots. Sick Call still remains: Monday-Fridays 0800-1000 hrs and 1300-1400 hrs, Saturdays 0800-1000 hrs, and Sundays 1330-1430 hrs.

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
66° F | 48° F



Tomorrow
69° F | 46° F



Monday
67° F | 48° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the first state to enter the U.S. after the original thirteen?

Last Issue's Answer: JULY 2 - 182 days before it, 182 days after it.

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 203 was produced by Sgt. Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. Soldiers have to adapt and overcome. 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team troops find that to be true on a mission in southern Baghdad. Story from the field by Sgt. Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

The mission was a success.

2. 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers are train-

ing Iraqi Federal Police on non-lethal methods. Interview with 1Lt. Mike Olvera, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT.

The course offers a variety of training.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

	4	6		2				
			6	5		3	2	1
			8		9			5
3				6	1		7	8
		8	4		7	6		
1	6		2	8				4
	8		7		2			
7	9	3		1	6			
			4			5	9	

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

1	9	3	4	2	7	8	6	5
7	6	4	9	5	8	2	3	1
8	2	5	1	3	6	7	4	9
4	3	6	2	1	9	5	8	7
9	1	8	7	6	5	4	2	3
2	5	7	3	8	4	9	1	6
3	4	9	6	7	2	1	5	8
6	8	2	5	9	1	3	7	4
5	7	1	8	4	3	6	9	2



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The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Daily Charge** reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

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